City of San Antonio

Legislation Details (With Text)

File #:	15-5395
Type:	Staff Briefing - Without Ordinance
	In control: Neighborhoods and Livability Committee
On agenda:	11/16/2015
Title:	Briefing and possible action on a request to prohibit alcohol from ten City parks and to allow alcohol at Northern Hills Golf Course and the Northeast Golf Center. [Maria D. Villagomez, Assistant City Manager; Xavier D. Urrutia, Director, Parks & Recreation]
Sponsors:	
Indexes:	
Code sections:	
Attachments:	1. Attachment 1 - Sec. 22-1. Restrictions on sale and use of alcoholic beverages in parks

Date	Ver.	Action By	Action	Result

DEPARTMENT: Parks and Recreation

DEPARTMENT HEAD: Xavier D. Urrutia

COUNCIL DISTRICTS IMPACTED: City Wide

SUBJECT:

Request to update alcohol exemptions in City parks

SUMMARY:

On May 26, 2015, Councilwoman Shirley Gonzales asked staff to consider prohibiting alcohol in the following parks located in District 5: Amistad, Father Albert Benavides, Calderon Boys and Girls Club, Cassiano, Elmendorf Lake, Kelly Area, Morrill, Roosevelt and Juan Vidaurri Parks. Staff also recommends removing Escobar Park located in District 5 from the list of exemptions as it is located adjacent to the listed parks.

Additionally, the City recently acquired Northern Hills Golf Course which is currently operated by Municipal Golf Association - San Antonio (MGA-SA). North East Golf Center is currently operated by and leased to Northeast Golf Center, LLC. It is recommended to further amend City Code in order to permit alcohol sales, possession, consumption and distribution at these facilities as is consistent with other municipal golf facilities.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION:

Section 22-1 of the City Code establishes restrictions on the sale and use of alcoholic beverages in public parks. In 2002, City Council approved an Ordinance which established a restriction on alcohol in all City parks, except for those specifically exempted and listed in the Ordinance. As a result, the alcohol prohibition makes it unlawful for any person to sell, possess, consume, or distribute alcoholic beverages in any City park except for a list of exempted park locations. The majority of parks exempted from the alcohol restriction, fall within one of three criteria: 1) park designed or traditionally utilized for large group functions; 2) park serves as a destination for tourists or convention groups; and 3) park is under lease or license that allows alcohol to be served. Under the current Ordinance, alcohol is permitted at 53 parks and facilities out of a total of 245 locations. Through City Council action, parks may be added or deleted from the list of exempted parks as necessary. The Director of the Parks and Recreation Department may authorize a special permit to allow the possession and consumption of alcohol within restricted parks for special events.

The Governance Committee was briefed on the City Council Consideration memo on August 19, 2015, and forwarded this request to the Parks and Recreation Board and the Neighborhoods and Livability Committee for consideration. The recommended ten parks in District 5 to be removed from the exemption list do not fall within any of the three previously listed criteria and it is also recommended that the two golf courses be added as they are leased facilities and not operated by the City. The Parks and Recreation Board was briefed regarding the recommendations at its August 24, 2015, meeting.

ISSUE:

Attachment 1 lists the current parks that are exempt from alcohol. To date there are 53 exemptions. A park may be added or deleted from the list of exempted parks as necessary through City Council action.

FISCAL IMPACT:

There is no fiscal impact associated with this request.

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends removing alcohol exemptions at ten City parks located in Council District 5 and adding Northern Hills Golf Course and North East Golf Center to the alcohol exemption list.